The Bulletins are published weekly throughout the school year (thirty issues) to aid teachers and students in keeping abreast of geography behind current news events.

GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS

of

The National Geographic Society

WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

The National Geographic Society is a non-profit educational and scientific Society established for the increase of geographic knowledge and its popular diffusion.

VOLUME XXX | February 18, 1952 | NUMBER 19

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MAYNARD OWEN WILLIAMS

ZLASS TRIBESMEN OF TUNISIA PARADE IN FRONT OF KAIROUAN'S GREAT MOSQUE

On the last day of the Rug Fair in April, these richly dressed desert riders stage the Moslem country's counterpart of a western rodeo. Women watch from the mosque's balconies. Pilgrims from all north Africa come to Kairouan, a holy place to Mohammedans.

Bulletin No. 1, February 18, 1952

Riot-Torn Cairo Outranks All Arab Cities

CAIRO, where a violent outburst of rioting recently resulted in many deaths and much destruction of property, is not only the capital of Egypt and Africa's largest city (2,100,506 inhabitants), but the metropolis of the Arab world.

Touched off by the dispute between Britain and Egypt over the African kingdom's cancellation of the 1936 treaty regarding control of the Suez Canal zone and the Sudan, the riots destroyed the famous Shepheard's Hotel, the British Turf Club, cafés and theaters patronized by foreigners, and much other property in the European quarter of the city.

Not an Ancient City

Crossroads of two continents, Cairo stretches along the east bank of the Nile between the river and the Mokattam Hills which reach a height of 550 feet above the sea. Seventy miles to the east the disputed Suez Canal enters the narrow Gulf of Suez.

Cairo is not ancient, like Memphis, Saqqara, and Heliopolis whose ruins are near-by landmarks. It was built toward the end of the 10th century by conquering Arabs on the site of previous Arab settlements.

Today, two distinct cities make up Cairo. On the east is the old city of the Middle Ages. In bazaars, along narrow streets, gold and silversmiths fashion and sell filigree jewelry. Merchants in tapestry, textiles, and leather goods offer their wares. Behind balconied dwellings of Arab design at the edge of dusky streets hide gay walled gardens.

Westward from the Ezebekiya Gardens—a 20-acre octagonal park in the heart of the city—extends the European city, the modern Cairo, scene of the greatest destruction. Streets are wide and straight, bordered by modern hotels, shops, motion picture theaters, cafés, banks, and travel agencies. Farther west, along the river, rise such show places as the Museum of Egyptian Antiquities, containing relics of Egypt from prehistoric days; the British Embassy; the Semiramis Hotel. Beyond, on islands in the river, are clubs, hotels, and palatial homes.

Nineteenth-century Mosque Crowns Citadel

Over the city, on a spur of the Mokattam Hills, looms El-Kala, the Citadel built by Saladin, Sultan of Egypt from 1174 till his death in 1193. He employed in its construction Crusaders from Western Europe whom he had captured in the battles for Jerusalem.

Across the Nile, on the southwest horizon, rise the Pyramids of Giza. This group of three royal monuments and the famous Sphinx is thought to have been built by kings of the Fourth Dynasty who ruled Egypt 3,000 years before the Christian era.

The 2,300,000 stone blocks of the Great Pyramid step the massive structure to a height of 451 feet. The Second Pyramid is about four feet lower, and the Third towers 203 feet. Originally the pyramids were covered with a smooth stone facing. Except for a portion at the peak of

ENTERED AS SECOND CLASS MATTER APRIL 27, 1943, POST OFFICE, WASHINGTON, D. C., UNDER ACT OF MARCH 3, 1879.
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J. BAYLOR ROBERTS

THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT LOOKS DOWN ON THE WHITE HOUSE AND LAFAYETTE SQUARE

General Andrew Jackson (left foreground) rides his rearing bronze horse. Cannons captured by the general in the War of 1812 were melted down by sculptor Clark Mills to make this equestrian monument in 1853. Delicately balanced on two legs, the statue stands at the center of Washington, D. C.'s Lafayette Square (Bulletin No. 3).

Bulletin No 2, February 18, 1952

Oceania Is the Pacific's Watery "Continent"

TEN years ago this month Japan was riding high as the conqueror of the Pacific Islands. Three weeks ago Suva, capital of the Fiji group, was flattened by a hurricane. Excepting such outrages of man and nature, the vast watery "continent" of Oceania rarely makes a headline.

The "South Sea Islands" appear often on the travel page, however. And they are known to readers of romantic stories. Many of these readers, as hard-bitten GI's during World War II, revised their armchair idea of the islands.

Clouds of Islands

Some of the land specks, these uninformed visitors found, were indeed the tropical paradises of their dreams. But others, depending on location and formation, featured disease-ridden jungles, griddle-hot expanses of sand and coral, and mist-hung volcanic mountains. And between landfalls lay seemingly endless watery horizons.

The vast number of the islands and the great slice of the globe they cover are sources of wonder. Many are unnamed, uninhabited, even uncounted. The natives of one of the smaller groups called their homeland Tuamotu, meaning "Cloud of islands." Rough estimates have placed the Pacific's "main" islands at about 2,650.

Between Palau and Easter—the longest west-east stretch of the islands—lie 8,500 miles, almost twice the distance between New York and London. From Midway to New Zealand, the north-south expanse measures 5,000 miles—the distance between Chicago and north Chile.

The Equator makes a natural geographic division. Except for the Gilbert Islands (illustration, next page) and a couple of isolated specks, the United States controls every one of the islands north of the Equator. This control is exercised through outright ownership (examples: Hawaii, Wake, Guam); United Nations trust territory agreements (Caroline, Marianas, and Marshall islands); and by the terms of the San Francisco treaty (the Bonins and other groups on the approach to Japan).

Three Native Races

Also, the United States maintains sole or joint ownership of a swath of islands south of the Equator extending to Pago Pago in Samoa. England, France, Australia, and New Zealand divide up the remainder.

Grouping Oceania's archipelago according to native races cuts through these superficial national lines. The Polynesians inhabit the vast triangle whose points are Hawaii, New Zealand, and Easter Island. Micronesians occupy a square west of Polynesia, including the Marianas, Marshall, Caroline, and Gilbert groups. Melanesia, southward, encompasses New Caledonia, Fiji, the Solomons, and vast New Guinea.

Polynesians have comparatively light skins and other Caucasian characteristics. Skillful and daring seafarers, they may have migrated from Asia to their remote islands in the distant past. Micronesians are closely related to the Malayan people of southeast Asia. Melanesians are dark-skinned and have Negroid features.

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the Second, this was all removed for other building projects, leaving the stairstep effect which makes it possible to climb to the tops.

Cairo's chief industries are cotton manufacturing and sugar refining. Its commerce is mainly goods in transit—ivory and hides from the Sudan, cotton and sugar from Upper Egypt, rugs and shawls from Iran, tobacco from Turkey, and European products passing through to world markets.

Cairo's winter climate is dry and healthful, cold at night. There are occasional snow flurries. The summer is hot. Although rainfall is scanty, river mists create a damp atmosphere during the autumn months.

NOTE: Cairo is shown on the National Geographic Society's map of Africa. Write the Society's headquarters, Washington 6, D. C., for a price list of maps.

See also,"The Spotlight Swings to Suez," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for January, 1952; "American Fighters Visit Bible Lands," March, 1946; "American Alma Maters in the Near East," August, 1945; "War Meets Peace in Egypt," April 1942 (out of print; refer to your library); and "Daily Life in Ancient Egypt," October, 1941 (out of print). *(Back issues of the Magazine may be obtained from the Society's headquarters at 60¢ a copy, 1946 to date; $1.00, 1930-1945; and $2.00, 1912-1929. Earlier issues, when available, at varied prices.)*

G. E. JANSSEN

FROM A MINARET OF THE IBN TULUN MOSQUE, BRITISH SOLDIERS VIEW CAIRO'S CITADEL

In the distance, within the Citadel walls, rise the dome and minarets of the Mosque of Mohammed Ali. One of Cairo's more than 260 mosques, it was built by the founder of Egypt's present royal house.

Bulletin No. 3, February 18, 1952

Lafayette Park Attracts Washington Visitors

VISITORS to Washington, D. C., on George Washington's birthday, can add a special feature to their sight-seeing tours by walking through and around Lafayette Square, the quiet park named for the French nobleman who aided the United States in its fight for freedom and who was a great and close friend of Washington.

Directly across Pennsylvania Avenue from the White House (illustration, inside cover), Lafayette Square contains statues of the Marquis de Lafayette and three other men who helped in America's Revolutionary War.

Andrew Jackson's Statue Has Chief Place

Lafayette's statue is in the southeast corner of the park. On the other corners are the bronze figures of the Comte de Rochambeau, who led French troops in the American Revolution; Tadeusz Kosciuszko, Polish patriot who served under Washington; and Baron von Steuben, the German drillmaster whose leadership and organization contributed greatly to American victory.

The central and most prominent location is occupied by an equestrian bronze of Andrew Jackson, seventh president of the United States and hero of the Battle of New Orleans.

Every one of the soldiers memorialized on the square fought against the British. Ironically enough, one of the great houses that lined the park and made it the social center of the capital in the 19th century was the British legation.

The brownstone building was known as Ashburton House. It stands next to historic St. John's Episcopal Church, the "church of presidents." Now the headquarters for part of the American Federation of Labor, Ashburton House was named for the British envoy Lord Ashburton who worked with Secretary of State Daniel Webster to develop the Webster-Ashburton Treaty fixing the United States-Canadian boundary.

Decatur Home Still Stands

A neighbor is the United States Chamber of Commerce which has its own building on the site of Corcoran House, occupied at various times by Webster, Senator Chauncey Depew of New York, and W. W. Corcoran, founder of the Corcoran Gallery of Art.

Another famous building still standing on the square, along with Ashburton House and St. John's, is Decatur House (illustration, next page), built in 1819 by Stephen Decatur, hero of the "millions for defense but not one cent for tribute" campaign against the Barbary pirates.

Decatur was killed in a duel scarcely a year after his home was built, and it subsequently was occupied by such notables as Secretaries of State Henry Clay, Martin Van Buren, and Edward Livingston, and by Judah P. Benjamin who became Secretary of State of the Confederacy.

The carriage house of the Decatur mansion is now a naval museum, and the present owner of the beautiful Georgian residence has provided that the entire structure eventually be given to the Navy.

One of the nation's most famous clubs, the Cosmos Club, occupies three

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There is still another basis for classifying the islands. Some are volcanic (Tahiti, Hawaii, the Marquesas); some are the tops of mountain ranges (the Solomons, Marianas); and some are coral (the Gilbert, Ellice, and Marshall islands, including Bikini, the atom-bomb test site).

Coral islands, atolls, and reefs are the handiwork of a tiny water animal called polyp. With millions of fellow workers, this creature quietly converts chemicals in ocean water into coral.

Coconut palms top many of the islands. Copra (dried coconut meat) is a chief item of trade. Most islanders live by raising taro, sweet potatoes, bananas, breadfruit, and other fruits and vegetables. Though some islands are thickly settled, the total population of Oceania (not counting New Guinea and New Zealand) is less than one and a half million. About one-third of this number inhabits the Hawaiian Islands.

NOTE: The islands of Oceania may be located on the Society's map of the Pacific Ocean and the Bay of Bengal, on which many of them appear in large-scale insets.

For further information see "Okinawa, Pacific Outpost," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for April, 1950; "Because It Rains in Hawaii," November, 1949; "Shores and Sails in the South Seas," January, 1950; "Pacific Wards of Uncle Sam," July, 1948; "American Pathfinders of the Pacific," May, 1946; and many other articles listed under "Pacific Islands" in the *Cumulative Index to the National Geographic Magazine* (refer to your library); see also, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, April 16, 1951, "Mauna Loa's Fireworks Are Hawaiian Assets"; "U.S.S. Tarawa Honors Marines' Grimmest Battle," March 12, 1951; and "Okinawa Useful in Korea Operations," November 20, 1950.

W. ROBERT MOORE

ON LITTLE MAKIN ISLAND, A GILBERTESE JUNIOR CHOIR SINGS A WELCOME FOR VISITORS

Bulletin No. 4, February 18, 1952

Menhaden Leads U.S. Commercial Fish Catch

MENHADEN—what are they?

Most inlanders and even some of the salty mariners who helped catch a billion and a half menhaden in United States coastal waters of the Atlantic in 1951 might not be able to answer that question in a quiz program.

Yet more menhaden have been taken from American waters than any other fish species. The 1951 catch, when finally tabulated, will run just about one-fourth of the year's total of four and two-fifth billion pounds of United States commercial-fishery products, Fish and Wildlife Service estimates indicate.

Fish of Many Aliases

Oily, mealy, and bony, the menhaden never has been popular on American dining tables—a good reason why it is little known away from the Atlantic coast. More people come into contact with it, however, than with any other fish, since it yields oil widely used in making soap, paint, linoleum, and waterproofing compounds, and in tempering steels. The residue after oil extraction is ground into meal for farm animals and poultry. A small part of it is used as fertilizer.

Numerous aliases make menhaden unfamiliar by that name to some of the men who live by catching them. Along the coasts of Maryland and Virginia they are known variously as bughead, bugfish, oldwife, alewife, greentail, and chebog.

Delaware adds mossbunker to the list. Connecticut's fishermen talk about whitefish, bonyfish, and bunker. Southward, Carolinians refer to menhaden as fatback and pogy.

The menhaden is one of the many members of the herring family. Full grown, it weighs about three-fourths of a pound and measures a foot long. Its name is derived from a Narragansett Indian word meaning "enricher of the earth." The Indians well knew its value as fertilizer, placing a fish in each hill of corn as they planted.

Like Shallow Water

New Englanders were the first to extract menhaden oil for industrial purposes. Their coast proved too cool to be the center of large-scale processing of the fish, however, since menhaden move north from Florida waters only as seasonal heat raises the ocean temperature above 60 degrees. Hence they spent only a few weeks in the waters north of Long Island. Their winter refuge is a mystery.

Commercial fishermen in their specially built menhaden boats, 85 to 150 feet long, range along the coast with the migrating fish. The fish like the shallow coastal waters, bays and sounds, where they swim in immense schools close to the surface and in closely massed formation. As many as half a million fish have been trapped in a single catch in the 1,200-foot purse seines that are drawn about the menhaden schools (illustration, next page).

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buildings on the northeast corner of the square. One of the club houses is the Dolly Madison house, originally built by Mrs. Madison's brother-in-law.

A few doors away is the USO club, in the old Belasco Theater building. Today's servicemen can contemplate Lafayette Park's fighting men of the past by merely looking out a window. They might also learn that the site of their club was formerly occupied by the house in which an assassin attempted the life of Secretary of State William H. Seward on the same night that Abraham Lincoln was shot in Ford's Theater.

NOTE: Lafayette Square may be located on the Society's Pocket Map of Central Washington.

For further information, see "Washington: Home of the Nation's Great," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for June, 1947; "Wartime Washington," September, 1943; and "Washington, Home City and Show Place," June, 1937. Many other articles on the nation's capital and its first president may be found listed in the *Cumulative Index to the National Geographic Magazine*, which is probably available in your school or public library.

B. ANTHONY STEWART

THE HOUSE STEPHEN DECATUR BUILT FOR HIS BRIDE IS ONE OF LAFAYETTE SQUARE'S OLDEST

The gracious structure still stands essentially as it was originally built in 1819. Prize money from Decatur's Mediterranean campaigns provided funds for the classical mansion, but the naval hero enjoyed his home only the short year before he was killed in a duel. Today it is owned by descendants of the officer under whom young Decatur served as an ensign.

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Unrest Adds Page to Tunisia's Long History

ARMED clashes between Arab nationalists and French government forces are adding another chapter to the long history of Tunisia, the ancient north African state whose strategic position southwest of Sicily dominates the central narrows of the Mediterranean.

From the time the first Phoenician traders established a colony in the 16th century B.C., until the closing battle of the African campaign of World War II, nine years ago this spring, Tunisia has been the scene of frequent conflict.

Hannibal Was Native

Carthage, one of the greatest cities of the ancient world, was only a few miles from the present capital, Tunis (illustration, next page). Carthage reached a peak population of 1,000,000 inhabitants more than three centuries before the Christian era. It was twice destroyed, first by the Romans in 146 B.C. and finally by the Arab conquerers of north Africa in 698 A.D.

The Roman conquest of Carthage ended the Third Punic War, about 40 years after the death of Hannibal, the Carthaginian leader and one of the great military leaders of all time. In the Second Punic War Hannibal marched his mercenary hordes and elephants through Spain and Gaul and over the Alps into Italy to threaten Rome itself.

The story of Carthage, however, is but a small part of the history of Tunisia. Barbary pirates sailed from Tunisian ports in the Middle Ages and later ravaged European cities and harassed Mediterranean shipping. They were defeated by Stephen Decatur early in the 19th century (see illustration following Bulletin No. 3).

One of the most famous, or notorious, corsairs of the area was Dragut, who fought for the Turkish Empire and burned a Spanish fleet sent against him in 1560. At the same time Dragut leveled a Spanish fort on the Tunisian island of Djerba—Ulysses' land of the lotus eaters—and massacred the entire garrison.

Before the rise of the Barbary pirates, Louis IX of France, later Saint Louis, died in Tunisia while leading the Eighth Crusade in 1270.

Yanks Versus Germans

More than 600 years later the French took control, moving in from their neighboring colony of Algeria after numerous border skirmishes. Tunisia today is a French protectorate with a predominantly Arab population of about 3,300,000 and an area about the same as New York State's.

During World War II, the Germans occupied Tunisia. They made their last African stand at Cap Bon at the northeast tip of the country. It was in Tunisia that American armor and infantry first engaged the Germans in that war. The Yanks bounced back for a major part in the victory after their initial defeat at Kasserine Pass. From Tunisia the Allies launched the attack on Sicily which led to the invasion of Italy.

All the interest in Tunisia does not lie in war, however. It is the site

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The biggest hauls are made in autumn when the fish are larger and supply seven or eight times as much oil as in the spring. Scooped into the hold of the mother ship, they are taken at the day's end to one of some 30 menhaden-reducing plants that dot the coast from northern Florida to Long Island.

Despite the steadily increasing commercial catch, menhaden numbers appear to be increasing each season, old timers of the industry say.

NOTE: Regions where menhaden are caught in great quantities may be located on the Society's map of the Atlantic Ocean.

See also, "Lake Sunapee's Golden Trout" (14 color photographs), in the *National Geographic Magazine* for October, 1950; "An Artist's Glimpses of Our Roadside Wildlife," July, 1950; "Menhaden—Uncle Sam's Top Commercial Fish," June, 1949; "The *Yankee's* Wander-world," January, 1949; "Fishing in the Lofotens" and "Shad in the Shadow of Skyscrapers," March, 1947; "Oregon Finds New Riches," December, 1946; "Tuna Harvest of the Sea," September, 1940; "Fishing in Pacific Coast Streams," February, 1939; and "Where Bretons Wrest a Living from the Sea," June, 1937.

NORTH CAROLINA STATE NEWS BUREAU

PURSE BOATS CROWD AGAINST THE MOTHER SHIP (right), TRAPPING THOUSANDS OF MENHADEN

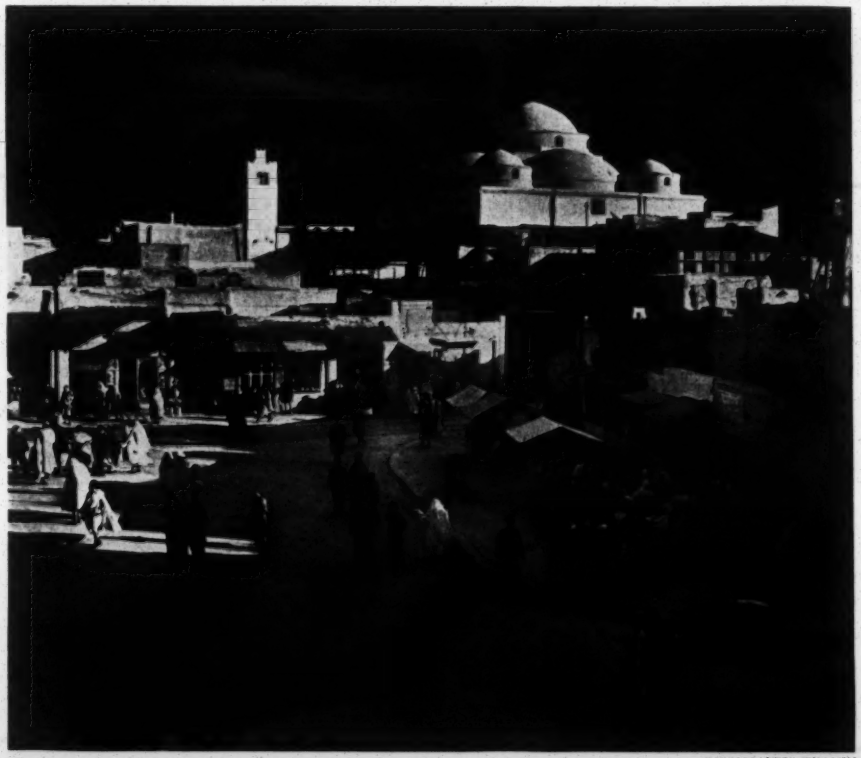
The dipper pulls out the oily fish 2,000 at a time. To net such large catches, the two small boats spread the purse net under the school of fish, then slowly close the triangle between them and the mother ship, tightening the net as they proceed.

of the holy Moslem city of Kairouan (illustration, cover), and of a famous synagogue, built near Hara Srira on the island of Djerba by descendants of Jews who fled Jerusalem when that city was conquered by Titus.

Tunisia is also the home of a remarkable shrimp, the *Thermosbaena mirabilis*, which literally spends its life in hot water. The shrimp is found in the hot springs of El Hamma, where the water temperature is around 115 degrees Fahrenheit—about the highest temperature in which higher aquatic organisms can live.

NOTE: Tunisia appears on the Society's map of Africa.

For additional information, see "From Africa to the Alps" (8 color photographs), in the *National Geographic Magazine* for February, 1946; "Americans on the Barbary Coast," July, 1943; "Eastward from Gibraltar," January, 1943; and "Time's Footprints in Tunisian Sands," March, 1937.



MAYNARD OWEN WILLIAMS

SHOPS ARE CROWDED, CAFÉS EXUDE COFFEE ODORS, DOMES AND MINARET CUT THE DARKENING SKY LINE: EVENING FALLS IN TUNIS

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